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DRAFTED BY: AF/C: KCAISTON
APPROVED BY: AF/C: AXRENDER

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TO AMEMBASSY KIGALI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 007896

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM AF/C - K. AISTON

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: AMGT
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL - INFORMAL

1. (C) KAGAME REQUESTS: THE SUPPORT KAGAME IS LOOKING
FOR IS BEING DISCUSSED IN THE INTERAGENCY GROUP.
(THERE'S A SVTS THURSDAY ON THIS AND OTHER ISSUES). ON
THE UN ARMS EMBARGO,

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ALTHOUGH
AF DOESN'T HAVE AN "OFFICIAL" POSITION YET, OUR GENERAL
FEELING IS THAT IT WOULD NOT/NOT BE A GOOD IDEA TO PURSUE
LIFTING THE EMBARGO AT THIS TIME. FROM A POLITICAL POINT
OF VIEW, THIS WOULD SEND THE WRONG MESSAGE. SPEAKING
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PRACTICALLY, THE GOR DOESN'T NEED THE EMBARGO LIFTED TO DEFEND ITSELF OR TO AVOID ANOTHER GENOCIDE AND THEY'VE GOT A LOT BETTER THINGS TO DO WITH THEIR MONEY. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE TIME MAY NOT COME WHEN MOVING TO LIFT THE EMBARGO WOULD BE APPROPRIATE; WE COULD EVEN USE IT AS LEVERAGE. AS FOR RESUMING NORMAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE (EG, IMET), SOME THINK IT SENDS THE WRONG MESSAGE AND OTHERS FEEL IT'S APPROPRIATE AID, PARTICULARLY IF WE FOCUS ON HUMAN RIGHTS SENSITIZATION/ ROLE-OF-THE- MILITARY-IN-A-DEMOCRACY TYPE PROGRAMS. DOD IS ALSO LOOKING AT WHETHER THE EMBARGO LIMITS OR PREVENTS THE USG FROM PROVIDING EXCESS DOD EQUIPMENT EVEN IF IT'S NON-LETHAL STUFF. THESE ARE ALL JUST IN-HOUSE THOUGHTS, THOUGH. YOU WILL GET A FRONT CHANNEL ON THE EMBARGO AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE WHEN THE USG POSITION IS REACHED, BUT WE THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW OUR CURRENT THINKING.

2. (C) FOOD SHIPMENTS: WE WOULD WELCOME MORE REPORTING ON THE RPF'S EFFORTS TO INTERDICT FOOD SHIPMENTS TO THE REFUGEE CAMPS ACROSS THE BORDER. WHAT'S THE LATEST? IS THIS A MAJOR PROBLEM (OR PERHAPS A GOOD THING?) AND HAVE WE TALKED TO THE GOR ABOUT IT? PLEASE LET US KNOW AS SOON AS YOU CAN. WE WILL BE DISCUSSING IT AT THE SVTS AND IT WILL PROBABLY COME UP AT THE FRIENDS MEETING ON TUESDAY.

3. (U) HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT: DRL SAYS WE MUST HAVE POST'S RESPONSES TO THE V-1 BY COB 1/16. WHEN I POINTED OUT THAT WAS A HOLIDAY, THEY AGREED TO OOB 1/17 WASHINGTON TIME, WHICH IS ESSENTIALLY COB 1/17 KIGALI TIME. THE NUMBER OF BUREAUS/AGENCIES THAT WANT TO SEE
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THE RWANDA REPORT THIS YEAR IS ENORMOUS, SO WE NEED TO BUDGET TIME FOR CLEARANCES BACK HERE. DRL AND I SPENT SEVERAL HOURS ON BURUNDI'S REPORT, WHICH WAS CONSIDERED PRETTY NON-CONTROVERSIAL THIS YEAR. I'M SURE RWANDA'S WILL BE A HARDER CASE. THE SOONER YOU CAN GET IT BACK TO US, THE BETTER. THANKS (AND THANK BOB) FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK ON THIS VERY DIFFICULT AND PAINFUL PROCESS.

4. (LOU) POST REQUESTS: I UNDERSTAND DS IS LOOKING AT

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TEMPORARILY GIVING THE RSO IN KAMPALA RESPONSIBILITY FOR RWANDA. THIS WOULD INCLUDE A 3-4 WEEK TDY TO KIGALI TO LET THE KAMPALA RSO GET TO KNOW THE PLACE. IT'S ALL STILL IN THE PLANNING STAGES THOUGH. (MAYBE THE HIGH-LEVEL DS VISIT WILL HELP.) WE'LL KEEP YOU POSTED. AS FOR THE DATT ISSUE, IT'S STILL UNDER DISCUSSION.

5. (U) BELATED HOLIDAY GREETINGS: THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR IMPRESSIONISTIC SEASONS GREETINGS/O-I. AS ALWAYS, I FOUND YOUR PICTURE BOTH POETIC AND EVOCATIVE. I'M SORRY TO SAY I DON'T THINK YOUR SEASON'S WISH FOR ME WILL COME TRUE ANYTIME SOON, ALTHOUGH I DID GET A COUPLE THREE-DAY HOLIDAY WEEKENDS WITH THE FAMILY, WHICH WAS A WELCOME (IF NOVEL) EXPERIENCE.

6. (U) LATE BREAKING NEWS?: LYDIA JUST HANDED ME A FBIS ITEM SAYING THAT EX-FAR SOLDIERS SHOT AT THE RPA IN CYANGUGU PROVINCE, MARKING THE FIRST "SERIOUS CLASHES" BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES SINCE THE "END OF THE WAR". (I'M QUOTING FBIS, QUOTING FRENCH TV). WHAT'S UP? I'M SURE A REPORT WILL BE COMING IN. THANKS.
CHRISTOPHER

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